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This submission is in regards to the role of the TANF program. I believe that TANF is a much needed resource for low income families in need. Regardless if the “majority” of low income families aren’t receiving funds or additional help from TANF, there are still MANY families that depend on TANF to get through the hard times they may face. Food stamps, unemployment, and CalWORKs are other options for those “majority” families who can’t receive TANF.

I see TANF as another resource as the ones I mentioned before; a source of help that families can turn to when times are hard. Cutting this program will do nothing but marginalize yet another group of Americans. As a single mother, student, and recipient of CalWORKs, I know what it means to struggle; there are times when you are left alone to raise a child, or several children; when you can’t afford to provide food for your child; when a single job isn’t enough to get by; when bills overtake you; when school demands attention and time away from your family; or when a family depends on you, solely, to give them what they need. I can’t stand by to see others in the same boat as myself get treatment other than what I am receiving. We ALL deserve the same chance to get help up on our feet.

TANF should continue to remain readily available to those who need it. Why take away from a program that is benefitting the least of us? We ALL can benefit from those of us who are able to feel encouraged and relieved to know that they can make it through another day without added stressors to their lives. When people receive help, they can turn around and spin that positive reinforcement into productive and supportive work for the workplace, the community, and their families.